



GROOVELILY

March 13, 2008

Kathy Evans
Executive Director
NAMT
520 Eighth Ave Suite 301
New York, NY 10018

Dear Kathy,

We are happy to send a letter to you for your NEA application, to explain how NAMT's Festival of New Musicals affected our careers and, in fact, changed our lives.

On October 3, 2004, we performed a 45-minute showcase of our concert-musical STRIKING 12 at NAMT's Festival. We had no idea that in the audience were so many movers and shakers in the theater world, from all over the country as well as New York...(luckily, or we probably would have been nervous and blown it!)...and at the end of our performance, many of them handed their business cards to our agent at the meet-and-greet table.

Those cards, and the contacts we made at NAMT, have led to nearly every new professional opportunity we've had since then: 1) writing the score for and performing in an innovative production of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM for McCarter Theatre/Paper Mill Playhouse (with co-writer and bandmate Gene Lewin); 2) writing and performing in SLEEPING BEAUTY WAKES, a new musical commissioned by Deaf West Theatre and premiered by Center Theatre Group (with bookwriter Rachel Sheinkin); 3) writing TOY STORY: THE MUSICAL for Disney (with bookwriter Mindi Dickstein); 4) getting STRIKING 12 produced Off-Broadway by producer Nancy Nagel Gibbs; 5) getting STRIKING 12 licensed for others to perform, with productions in place from Cincinnati to Korea, through Theatrical Rights Worldwide; and 6) writing a new one-woman musical, ERNEST SHACKLETON LOVES ME, with bookwriter Joe DiPietro.

A world of opportunities has opened up for us, and we have NAMT to thank for all of it.

Sincerely,

Valerie Vigoda and Brendan Milburn

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